

From: A Non Moose
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/17/02 2:56pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement.

My comments on the settlement are that this matter has dragged on for way too long and is continuing to impact public confidence in the economy and American competitiveness in the global market place. The Wall Street Journal some time back had a number of comments from State representatives regarding the PR exposure that they get from dragging the case on ? I'm surprised that the media has failed to take them to task further.

Microsoft is a leading light for the US in the World Economy, if one looks at the size of the company relative to organizations such as IBM, GE & Boeing it is rather small. Success has come from 30,000 people working long and hard day in & day out ? not from Bill Gates alone. This case can do much to crush ?the American dream? and cut back the US's lead in the IT industry. Look at Japan and Europe and how they help to drive their national champions ? how do we ready ourselves to compete with them ? we cut our best players down at the knees ? gee it will be great when the software industry goes the way of the US auto & steel business.

Sun & Oracle are both large players but have invested less in R&D and are seeing a decline in business ? their outspokenness and fighting words of expectant dominance contrast drastically with what was discussed in court. AOL TimeWarner is a formidable competitor today, while IBM is a giant next to Microsoft. Dig into any of these organizations for long enough and one can find something to gripe about. Microsoft is probably the closet thing to a model company, happy employees and share holders who have shared in its success and Millions of customers who have benefited from reduced prices ? surmising over whether or not prices would have been cheaper with more competition disregards where the IT industry has come from and the role that Microsoft has plaid in making computing affordable for the masses. Let the market sort itself out.

I fully support a settlement at this stage and do not believe this case should ever have gone to trial. It is a breakdown in our system.

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